USA putting squeeze on Indian Doctors

1801. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that USA is putting a squeeze on Indian doctors as reported in Indian Express dated the 22nd November, 1995; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (b) The US Government appear to have adopted a restriction approach towards intake of foreign doctors due to over-supply of medical doctors. The policy is not India specific.

Outstanding Dues Payable to Railways by each state electricity Board and NTPC

1802. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of outstanding dues payable to Railways by each of the State Electricity Boards and National Thermal Power Corporation plants as on 31st March, 1995; and 30th September 1995;

(b) what mechanism has been set up by the Ministry to monitor the arears recovery position and the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways are insisting on prepayment of freight charges for transportation of coal from pit heads to NTPC plants and other consumers, and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI): (a) Details about the outstanding dues payable to Railways by State Electricity Boards and National Thermal Power Corporation Plants are given below:-

(Fig. in crores of Rs.)

Sl. No.	Name of State Electricity Board/Power Houses.	Amount as on 31.3.95	Amount as on 30.9.95
1.	A.P. State Electricity Board	0.13	12.58
2.	Assam State Electricity Board	0.74	8.06
3.	Bihar State Electricity Board	8.53	11.62
4.	Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking	79.37	109.33
5.	Gujarat State Electricity Board	16.02	14.06

Sl. No.	Name of State Electricity Board/Power Houses.	Amount as on 31.3.95	Amount as on 30.9.95
6.	Haryana State Electricity Board	81.00	62.90
7.	Karnataka State Electricity Board	0.00	11.86
8.	Maharashtra State Electricity Board	24.58	34.38
9.	M.P. State Electricity Board	3.01	3.25
10.	Punjab State Electricity Board	0.01	18.72
11.	Rajasthan State Electricity Board	1.60	3.57
12.	Tamilnadu State Electricity Board	2.71	0.51
13.	U.P. State Electricity Board	41.38	68.71
14.	W.B. State Electricity Board	16.31	29.42
15.	N.T.P.C.	554.34	665.74
16.	Sabarmati	1.36	2.85
	TOTAL:	831.09	1057.56

(b) to (d) In order to monitor and bring down the outstanding dues, Zonal Railways have been asked to set up permanent machinery to reconcile the position periodically and jointly with State Electricity Boards. Scheme of compulsory prepayment of freight has been enforced on some State Electricity Boards which does not cover Badarpur Thermal Power House of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC). Railway administrations have asked State Electricity Boards to adopt the scheme of Advance Payment of freight at destination. The surcharge on coal traffic booked on To pay basis has also been enhanced from 10% to 15% w.e.f. 15.1.95.

Increase in cost of paper

1803. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cost of paper has been rising sharply since 1991, despite Government assurances to the contrary;

(b) whether Government realise that by allowing the cost of paper to rise, the cost of books has become prohibitive, particularly for the students belonging to low-income groups;

(c) whether the rise in cost of paper has also hit the publishing industry badly; and

(d) what remedial measures, if any, are being taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY DR. C. SILVERA): (a) to (d) There is no statutory control over the prices of paper. The prices are determined by the prevailing market forces and